

FORT MONMOUTH

1917-2011 | 94 YEARS OF **INNOVATION**
AND **SERVICE**

From World War I to the Global War on Terror, the Fort Monmouth team has supported the warfighter with the best command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems in the world



SPECIAL ISSUE OF ***THE MONMOUTH MESSAGE***

June 17, 2011

FORT MONMOUTH

1917 – 2011

94 Years of INNOVATION and SERVICE

Commanding General
Maj. Gen. Randolph P. Strong

Garrison Manager
George Fitzmaier

Public Affairs Officer
Henry Kearney

Editor
Mark Coyne & Debbie Sheehan

Special Contributor
Robyn Bennett

Layout and Design
Michael Tuttle

SPECIAL ISSUE OF ***THE MONMOUTH MESSAGE***

This commemorative special issue magazine was produced by the U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Monmouth Public Affairs Office, ATTN: IMNE-MON-PA, Fort Monmouth, N.J. 07703-5016 and is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense.

The magazine contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or U.S. Army Garrison Fort Monmouth. This magazine is published by the Defense Logistics Agency Document Service Office.

ON THE COVER



Top: Soldier Using Blue Force Tracking System. These situational awareness systems provide a visual representation of friendly and enemy forces on computer screens inside vehicles and command posts and on hand-held devices. Supported by the entire Fort Monmouth team, these systems give commanders unprecedented situational awareness on the battlefield and allow them to synchronize their forces. The use of these systems resulted in the virtual elimination of friendly fire incidents during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Bottom: Training with homing pigeons. A Signal Soldier trains with a courier pigeon at Fort Monmouth in 1943. American pigeon fanciers supplied 40,000 of the 54,000 birds that the Signal Corps furnished to the Armed Services during World War II.

Note: All photos in this magazine, unless otherwise credited, were gathered from the CECOM Historical archives or provided by the Chenega Technology Services Corporation Visual Information Services at Fort Monmouth.

From the COMMANDING GENERAL

Thirty years ago, the newly-designated U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) stood up as our flag rose at Fort Monmouth for the very first time; and the command could not have had a better home for those three decades.

With the full support of our Fort Monmouth garrison staff, the men and women of CECOM and our partner C4ISR organizations tirelessly sustained our nation's warfighters, enabling them to succeed in their missions and come home safely.

Fort Monmouth's proud history covers the full course of 94 years and includes the contributions of such past organizations as the U.S. Army's Electronics Command, Communications-Electronics Readiness Command, Communications Research and Development Command and so many others leading to the earliest days of the U.S. Army Signal Center and Signal Laboratories.

For nearly a century, Fort Monmouth served our nation with distinction through two World Wars, the Korean War, Vietnam, Operation Desert Storm, numerous peacekeeping operations in the 1980s and 1990s, and the Global War on Terrorism with its contingency



Maj. Gen. Randolph P. Strong
CECOM Commanding General

operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere around the world.

Quite early in its illustrious history, this installation was referred to as "the Army's house of magic" by Department of Defense leaders because of its unique array of technology projects and experiments.

From homing pigeons to the first frequency hopping tactical radios to satellite communications to Blue Force Tracking and countering improvised explosive devices, Fort Monmouth has been the epicenter of technological advancement as well as the home of scientists, engineers and heroes.

I'm deeply honored to serve and command Fort Monmouth in the footsteps of the many distinguished commanding generals, military and civilian leaders who came before me.

It is my privilege to lead CECOM, an organization that continues to make history in the proud tradition of this installation.

That glorious heritage has now moved with us to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., where we will build upon the legacy of Fort Monmouth for the next generation and beyond.

Thank you, Fort Monmouth, for all you have done in service and support of CECOM, the U.S. Army, and our nation and its defense.

From the GARRISON MANAGER

In 1917 when the Army's leadership established a new military installation here at the Jersey Shore, I wonder if they could have possibly predicted that it would eventually become the home not only of Signal Corps training and excellence but also the home of far-reaching technological innovations and brilliance for nearly a century.

From its very beginnings as Camp Little Silver during World War I, Fort Monmouth has been in the forefront of technological advancement. Whether it was training homing pigeons or bouncing radar signals off the moon or developing and fostering communications-electronics and night vision and reconnaissance and surveillance technologies, Fort Monmouth has been the birthplace of game-changing technological



George Fitzmaier, Manager,
U.S. Army Garrison,
Fort Monmouth

breakthroughs that have been essential to our nation's defense.

What made all of this possible through the years were the unbridled talent, dedication and passion of the Soldiers, civilians and contractor personnel who have served here and contributed as members of the Army C4ISR team, our many other resident organizations and our U.S. Army Garrison Fort Monmouth team.

From the very first Signal Soldiers who were assigned here for training so many years ago to the most recent newcomers to drive through the Johnston or Oceanport Gates, the men and women who've served on this post have made us proud. Their enthusiasm and commitment have become legendary, extending beyond the gates of Fort Monmouth and reaching out to our neighbors.

For more than nine decades, our Fort Monmouth community has forged close relationships with neighboring communities. From emergency services mutual aid agreements to our Soldiers and civilians participating in local school and community events, those ties have been quite close.

We've also frequently invited our neighbors inside our gates for events such as Math and Science Summer Camps; Career Days; Boy Scout and Girl Scout events and tours; and also to share in community celebrations such as Armed Forces Day and 4th of July fireworks displays.

No matter what the future may bring, the essence of what has been accomplished over the course of 94 years at Fort Monmouth will never be diminished; and the memories of all that we achieved here with the ever loyal support of our civilian neighbors will always be retained and cherished.

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

FORT MONMOUTH

1917-2011 | 94 YEARS OF **INNOVATION**
and **SERVICE**

SPECIAL ISSUE OF
THE MONMOUTH MESSAGE

CONTENTS

A LEGACY OF **INNOVATION**

From the establishment of the Signal School to homing pigeons to Blue Force Tracking, Fort Monmouth has been at the forefront of technological advancement to support the war fighter

6



Blackboard reads: Non Com. Officers Class Army Paper Work. School for Enlisted Specialist, Camp Alfred Vail, N.J. (1919)



Pfc. Jim Sarver sights through a terrestrial telescope peep-sight as Pfc. Robert Ayres clicks the shutter as they test a 100 in. long-range camera. The Fort Monmouth developed camera was capable of knifing through atmospheric haze to record battlefield objectives. (1954)

1917

1920

1930

1940

1950

June 1917

The first 32 Signal Soldiers arrive in two Model T Ford trucks at what was then called Camp Little Silver.

Aug. 1919

The Chief Signal Officer requests that all Army Signal Corps schools be moved to the renamed Camp Alfred Vail.

Aug. 1925

The installation is granted permanent status and renamed Fort Monmouth in honor of the Revolutionary War Battle of Monmouth Courthouse.

1930s

Much of the equipment used by U.S. forces during World War II was designed and developed at Fort Monmouth. The best-known development of the Signal Corps Laboratories during the 1930s was the SCR-300, the "Walkie-Talkie" radio set.

Buildup to WWII

The population influx during World War II (a peak of 35,000 military and 15,000 civilians) forced the leasing of sites in resort town Asbury Park, including: Convention Hall, the Marine Grill, the Kingsley Arms apartment hotel, the Grossman Hotel and the Sea Girt Inn.

Under Construction

Plans and contracts for \$25 million of construction were drawn by the end of 1951. Projects at this time included:

- The post hospital
- Six, 500-man Signal School barracks
- New school administration building which housed classrooms, a library, cafeteria, a post exchange, theater and more
- Auditorium with outdoor amphitheater
- Two major warehouses
- Charles Wood area housing

**A LEGACY OF
COMMUNITY COOPERATION**

Fort Monmouth's connection with its neighbors reaches far beyond its shared borders with Eatontown, Oceanport and Tinton Falls

11



**A LEGACY OF
GARRISON SUPPORT**

Supporting Soldiers, civilians and families as they defend and support the nation

14



**SPECIAL
FEATURES**



FORT MONMOUTH PROFILES

Fort Monmouth Profiles highlight an individual's or unit's contributions to the post's enduring legacy.

10, 13, 16

**A walk down the
Avenue of Memories**

Fort Monmouth personnel past and present reflect on the post and their experiences here.

8, 17, 18



Engineers demonstrate the cable tester they designed and fabricated over the course of one weekend for use by troops in Operation Desert Storm. (1991)

1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2011

Aug. 1962

The Army Materiel Command was established along with its subordinate element on Fort Monmouth, the U.S. Army Electronics Command.

June 17, 1976

Fort Monmouth's final signal communication class graduated as Signal Corps training was transferred to Fort Gordon, Ga.

May 1, 1981

The U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) is established and Maj. Gen. Donald Babers became the commander of both CECOM and Fort Monmouth.

**1990-1995
Population decline**

Due to multiple organization realignments, the number of civilians assigned to Fort Monmouth fell from 7,732 to 6,385; the number of service members fell from 1,826 to 761.

Aug. 2005

The Federal Base Realignment and Closure commission votes to close the fort.

Sept. 15, 2011

Fort Monmouth closes.

94 YEARS OF INNOVATION BEGAN
WITH BUILDING THE SIGNAL CORPS

‘ON AN OLD RACE COURSE NEAR EATONTOWN’



Pvt. Ernest C. Struble,
Company C,
10th Field Battalion,
Camp Vail 1917

The Army recognized at the outbreak of World War I that the Signal Corps’ strength of less than 2,000 officers and enlisted men was incapable of providing needed communications support should the United States enter the war.

In October 1916 the Office of the Chief Signal Officer asked the executives of American Telephone and Telegraph, Western Electric, Western Union and the Postal Telegraph Company to recruit from among their trained employees personnel for a Signal Enlisted Reserve Corps.

The response was more than could have been hoped for when 1,400 of the 6,000 male employees of the Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania applied for enlistment.

Hangars Two, Three and the Repair Shop

The particular demands of aerial warfare during World War I led the Army to devote part of the mission at Camp Vail to researching ground to air radios. Heddon Construction Company constructed two airfields and built four hangars east of Oceanport Avenue. More than 90 test flights were being made per week in 1918, leading local residents to mistakenly believe that Camp Vail was an airfield.



Amidst the turmoil of World War I, Col. Carl F. Hartmann, Signal Officer of the Eastern Department in New York City, tasked Maj. Gen. Charles H. Corlett to “go out and find an officer’s training camp.”

Corlett reported that after examining several other sites, he “finally stumbled on to an old race course near Eatontown. The owner, Melvin Van Keuren offered to sell the land for \$75,000. With authorization of the Adjutant General of the Army, Hartmann leased 468 acres of the tract from Van Keuren in 1917 with an option to buy. The land would later be purchased for \$115,300 in 1919.

In early June 1917, the first Signal Soldiers arrived at Fort Monmouth. Their assignment was to set up a training camp for the First and Second Reserve Telegraph Battalion which they did in a matter of weeks. The Army called the site “Camp Little Silver” and by the end of the month it became the home of 451 enlisted men and 25 officers.

By midsummer training had begun and included classes in cryptography, the heliograph, semaphore, wig-wag, motor vehicle operation, physical training, interior guard duty, map reading, Signal, and Infantry.

That fall the camp achieved semi-permanent status and was renamed Camp Alfred Vail. Vail, an associate of telegraph inventor Samuel F.B. Morse, was credited with helping him develop commercial telegraphy. Several courses were added including a six-week training course on foreign codes and languages because of the urgent need for telegraphers and radio operators in France.

The camp quickly became a bustling training facility. The Army sent 223 men to the camp for training and testing as German-speaking personnel and additional groups of 50 or more arrived each month thereafter.

Camp Alfred Vail trained a total of 2,416 men enlisted men and 448 officers for service in World War I in 1917; and

a total of 1,083 officers and 9,313 enlisted men in 1918.

In 1925 the installation was granted permanent status and renamed Fort Monmouth in honor of the men and women who fought at the Revolutionary War Battle of Monmouth Court house.

Radio Laboratory and Aerial testing

Camp Vail was selected as the site for a special Army laboratory devoted solely to wireless communications. Construction of the laboratory was finished by January 1918 and it consisted of 43 semi-permanent laboratory buildings in the vicinity of what is now Barker Circle and two air fields and four hangars east of Oceanport Avenue.

The newly setup laboratory was staffed with 48 officers, 45 enlisted men and 12 civilians. They were responsible for the development of radio equipment and their research centered on vacuum tubes and circuits of existing equipment, on the testing of apparatus submitted by manufacturers, and on the application of new inventions.

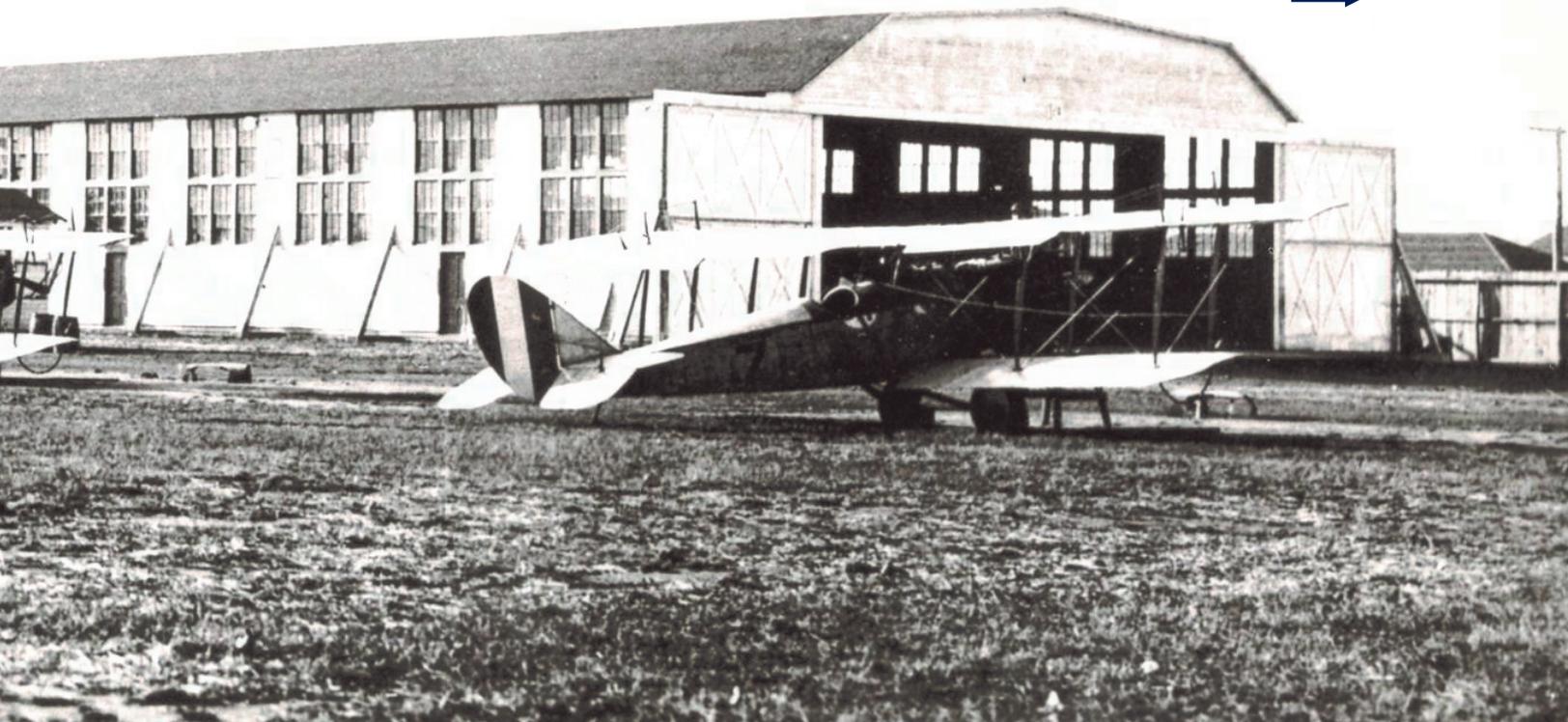
Establishment of Signal Corps Center and School

In August 1919 all Signal Corps schools, both officer and enlisted were moved to Camp Vail, a move that standardized Signal communications throughout the Army and consolidated Signal Corps installations.

The school utilized the hangars as workshops and classrooms and the initial curriculum included radio, telegraph and telephone engineering; signal organization and supply as well as radio electricity; photography and meteorology.

Initial use and development of homing pigeons

The Signal Corps Pigeon Breeding and Training Section at Camp Alfred Vail was established in 1919. In the late 1800s the Signal Corps made several failed attempts at using pigeon messengers. During World War I, the Commander of





A LEGACY OF *INNOVATION*

In 1919, the Army moved the Signal Corps Meteorological Service to Fort Monmouth.

the American Expeditionary Force, General John J. Pershing requested pigeon messaging be established in the American Army. The service first arrived in France in February 1918 and consisted of three officers, 118 enlisted men and a few hundred pigeons.

Several pigeon war heroes emerged: On September 12, 1918 a pigeon named Mocker sustained massive injuries while carrying a message over Beaumont. Despite his injuries, he completed his mission and the message got through.

The message gave the exact location of enemy heavy artillery batteries. American artillery were able to counter the attack and save countless lives. Mocker was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the French Croix de Guerre Medal.

Another hero pigeon named Spike is credited with carrying 52 vital messages while serving with the 77th Division.



After Mocker and Spike died they were stuffed, mounted and displayed at the Communications Electronics Museum here, which is being moved to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

Early radios and weather balloons

The Army's interest in the weather goes back to the mid-to-late 1800s. It was the Signal Corps' responsibility to track the weather and to warn of the approach and force of oncoming storms. In 1919 the Army permanently moved the Signal Corps Meteorological Service to Fort Monmouth. Its curriculum included training in meteorology for the enlisted radio specialist.

Early research included a 1929 program for radio-equipped weather balloons. It was the first major application of electronics to the study of weather and to determine upper atmospheric conditions

Development and deployment of radar in WWII

The term RADAR stands for Radio Detection and Ranging and was originally coined by the Navy. The term refers to the equipment as

A walk down the *Avenue of Memories*

By Lt. Col. (Ret.) John A. Hazel, Director of Emergency Services

“ I first visited Fort Monmouth with a large group of West Point cadets during the summer of 1971. At beautiful Fort Monmouth, I distinctly remember Signal Corps classes taught at the outdoor amphitheater adjacent to Pruden Auditorium.

I also remember a specialized technology demonstration conducted by the Army's Signal School on Greely Field. The technology demonstration started in earnest with a helicopter approaching Greely Field with great speed and then coming to a hover high over the large parade field. Without warning, the helicopter crew jettisoned their valuable cargo via parachutes onto the field.

Simultaneously, Soldiers who were previously concealed to the audience of cadets, closed in on the equipment and proceeded to set-up portable, tactical communications satellites. Within minutes, those Soldiers had established communications — presumably with a higher headquarters.

“This prolific technology demonstration amazed me and my classmates. Little did we know at the time that we were witnessing firsthand the future of Army communications — the digitization of Army communications via satellite technology.”



**Lt. Col. (Ret.) John A. Hazel,
Director of Emergency
Services**

well as the method by which distant or invisible objects can be detected by reflected radio waves.

Radar emerged from the need to counter a potential enemy attack via a submarine or aerial bombardment.

After several hurdles including funding, personnel issues and obtaining a patent, radar research was finally underway in earnest.

Experiments on radar were a top secret, highly classified endeavor. Researchers began working on the project at Fort Monmouth but were moved to Sandy Hook because it was suspected that German spies had observed them.

The Army soon began to fear that German subs would attack them at Sandy Hook so they moved the researchers to the Marconi Radio Station in Wall Township, N.J. The new research lab was named the Signal Corps Radar Laboratory until a short time later the Intelligence service in Washington D.C. advised the Army that “radar” was a classified word. It was later renamed the Camp Evans Signal Laboratory.

With top secret names such as the SCR-270 and the SCR-271, long range early warning radar detectors developed at Fort Monmouth were in use by 1941. But “user error” spelled disaster in the early morning hours of Dec. 7, 1941.

That morning, at Pearl Harbor, two U.S. Army Signalmen were on duty with their SCR-270 when it picked up echoes. Because the two Soldiers were not familiar with the echoes they assumed the equipment was malfunctioning. It wasn't. In all, six radars had been sent to Hawaii to protect the naval base.

The years that followed were marked by many significant breakthroughs and contributions to radar, including enemy mortar and artillery locating radar.

A scientist working in Camp Evans named John Marchetti conducted the experiments which led to the development of a radar system capable of detecting and locating hostile weapons with sufficient speed and accuracy to allow rapid and effective counter fire by friendly forces.

Without radar the outcome of WWII would have been very different. In several instances the use of radar directly affected the outcome of the engagement.

One example was in the Battle of Britain and the Battle of the Atlantic where radar operators foiled the planned attack on the Allied air base at Malta. The Axis was forced to surrender in North Africa as the Allies had been able to destroy their supply ships by detecting them with radar thus affecting the outcome of the Battle of Britain and the Battle of the Atlantic.

The Japanese were unable to make a surprise attack or defend their carriers in the Battle of Midway Island, their once superiority in night engagements was vastly diminished with gun fire directed from radar sets.

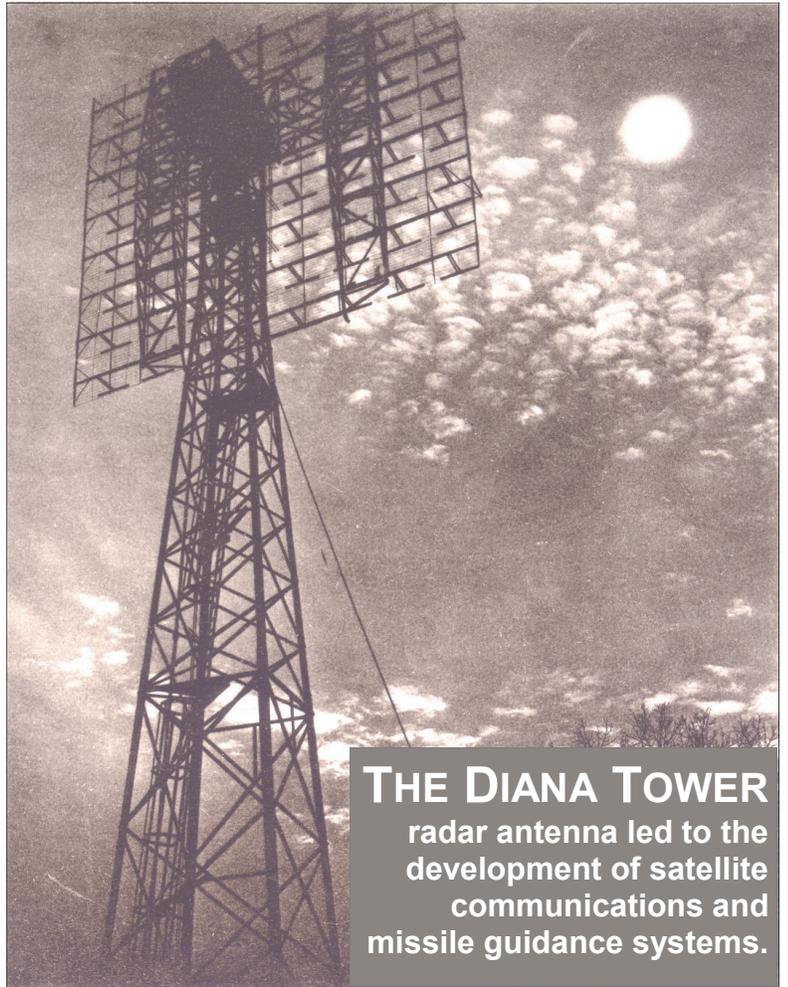
German radar sets were destroyed and radar cover was provided for ships and landing parties during the Normandy invasion.

Project Diana

A historic event occurred on Jan. 10, 1946 at the Evans Signal Laboratory in Wall Twp. Signal Corps scientists successfully reflected electronic signals off the moon using a specially designed radar antenna, called the Diana Tower.

The Diana antenna focused a beam of high frequency energy at the moon, traveling at the speed of light. Shortly after moonrise an audible ping was heard over the loudspeaker of the scientist's receiver, signaling the return of the radio wave just two and a half seconds later.

The success of the Diana had many implications, including a



THE DIANA TOWER
radar antenna led to the development of satellite communications and missile guidance systems.

deeper understanding about the nature of the surface of the moon and about the space between the earth and the moon. It also proved the feasibility of communicating across vast distances of space. Using the moon as a reflector suggested another way of transmitting line of sight radio messages over the horizon to distant terrestrial points. The radar techniques used also led to the more accurate measurement of distances in the solar system.

Perhaps the biggest impact of Project Diana is it ushered in the development of satellite communications and missile guidance systems.

Satellites and Project SCORE

In 1958 the Signal Research and Development Laboratory was working on the feasibility of using solar converters for satellites. The laboratory launched a satellite named Vanguard I from Cape Canaveral in Florida. The Deal Test Station of the laboratory was able to pick up its signals three minutes after its launch. Vanguard I traveled 409,257,000 miles in 11,786 orbits in three years. Its radio voice never failed and the satellite proved itself in scientific computations.

Project SCORE (Signal Communications via Orbiting Relay Experiment) was a project of the Advanced Research Project Agency (ARPA) conducted by the Signal Corps.

A Christmas message from President Dwight D. Eisenhower was broadcast to people around the globe on Dec. 18, 1958. The experiment effectively demonstrated the practical real-time feasibility of worldwide communications in delayed and real-time mode by means of relatively simple active satellite relays.



SINGGARS

The Single Channel Ground and Air Radio System (SINGGARS) is an example of CECOM taking the lead in finding ways to shorten the acquisition cycle through procurement and adaptation of non-developmental items and in standardizing tactical computers and software. SINGGARS provided very high frequency (VHF) FM combat radio communication with Electronic Counter-Countermeasures, or frequency hopping, and digital data capability.

Firefinder and Artillery Locating Radars

Developed, fielded and supported by Team C4ISR, the Firefinder radar system detects and locates enemy mortar and artillery weapon firing positions forcing the enemy to hold their mortar and artillery fire in self-defense rather than fire on allied troop positions.

Mobile Subscriber Equipment

MSE provides users with a means of communicating throughout the battlefield, regardless of location, in either static or mobile situations.

Blue Force Tracking/FBCB2

Developed, fielded and supported by Team C4ISR and the Program Executive Office for Command, Control and Communications-

Tactical, Blue Force Tracking and the Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below Command Control System (FBCB2) virtually eliminated friendly fire incidents by giving commanders unprecedented sight on the battlefield and allowing them to synchronize their forces.

World Trade Center rescue efforts

Team C4ISR technologies were called on to help in the rescue and recovery efforts at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. The world's smallest infrared camera, developed by CECOM and attached to a PVC pipe, was used for searching through voids in the rubble.

A laser Doppler vibrometer was also used to judge the structural integrity of the buildings. Electronic devices detected distress calls to 911 made from cellular phones.

Forward-Looking Infrared Radar

In 2003, the Forward-Looking Infrared (FLIR) programs provided state-of-the-art night vision capability to the war fighter. They were among the most technically and programmatically complex in the Army.

The night vision technology was hailed as life saving, allowing war fighters to see clearly at long ranges during varied atmospheric and battlefield conditions.

The technology has provided battlefield dominance on a variety of platforms.*



The view through night vision goggles.

FORT MONMOUTH PROFILES

DR. WALTER MCAFEE

Dr. Walter McAfee's mathematic calculations allowed for the successful Diana radar moon bounce.

McAfee (1914-1995) joined the Army Signal Corps Radar Laboratory in 1942 in the theoretical studies unit as a physicist, and continued his work at Fort Monmouth for four decades.

He earned a Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1949 and during his career, wrote studies on radar coverage pattern including diffraction around the curved surface of the Earth.

The Diana Tower was a radar antenna used to reflect electronic signals off the moon. While the scientists working on the project didn't think it was of immediate importance toward putting a man on the moon, McAfee considered the possibility of bouncing an electronic signal off

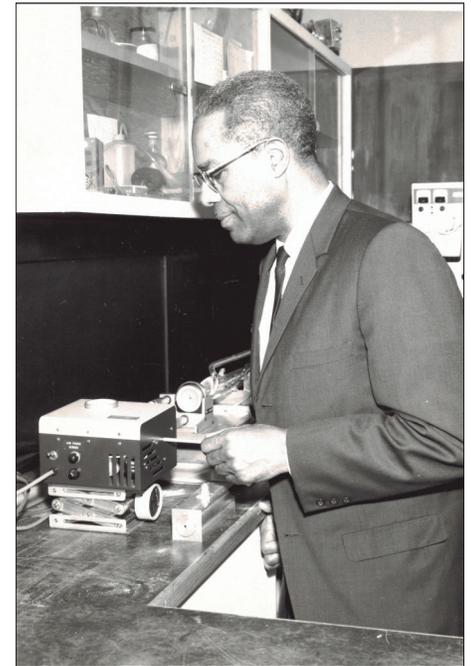
the moon would be useful in propagating sound waves.

The Diana experiment ushered in the development of satellite communications and missile guidance systems.

While newspaper reports at the time put the feat into the same category as the development of the atomic bomb, the African American McAfee's critical computations were not mentioned in the press coverage.

McAfee did eventually gain recognition including an honorary doctorate in science from Monmouth University.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower presented McAfee with one of the first Secretary of the Army research fellowships in 1956 which provided for his post-doctoral study at Harvard University and at laboratories in Europe and Australia.*



Dr. Walter McAfee

FORT MONMOUTH'S
CONNECTION WITH ITS
NEIGHBORS REACHES
FAR BEYOND ITS
SHARED BORDERS
WITH EATONTOWN,
OCEANPORT AND
TINTON FALLS

By Robyn Bennett and the
CECOM Historical Office



Armed Forces Day at Monmouth Mall, May 1967

A community can be defined in a variety of ways, such as a group of people sharing the same values, goals or interests; or a group of people bonding socially; or it could be that a group of people simply share the same neighborhood or town.

Ninety four years ago on a June day two Model T Ford trucks arrived at the old Monmouth Park Race Track, dropping off 32 Signal Soldiers. Their mission was to clear the land and set up the initial camp facilities for Camp Little Silver, a training camp for Signal troops. It was not long before it gained permanent status and was named Fort Monmouth a few years later.

The ties between the military installation and the community began to grow almost immediately. For example, an officer with the advance party visited the *Red Bank Register* newspaper for assistance in placing an advertisement.

He wanted the local farmers to know that the government was interested in purchasing large quantities of produce, oats, hay, straw, and cordwood from them. Construction of the old wooden structure camp was soon underway. →

Several buildings, including a headquarters building, officers' quarters, barracks, transportation sheds, shops and a warehouse were planned. The contractor employed 300 local men who worked long, hard hours and earned what was considered a tidy sum in those days ... \$30 per week.

The growth of the camp brought to the people of Oceanport a prosperity not seen since the Old Monmouth Park Race Track days in the previous century. Not only were the Signal Corps Soldiers good spenders but so were their relatives and friends who kept local storekeepers busy.

To accommodate the growing Army camp, the Little Silver mail route was extended and an addition was built to the Little Silver Railroad Station. Even in those early days, the neighboring communities opened their arms in friendship to our Soldiers. A recreation house for Soldiers was opened in Red Bank and then another in Long Branch.

A call for books for the camp was issued by the librarian at the Red Bank Public Library. Local clergymen served as chaplains of the new post. And on holidays, officers and enlisted Soldiers were welcomed at countless holiday tables in nearby communities.

During the Great Depression, Fort Monmouth was able, through the Federal Works Progress Administration, to provide hundreds of New Jersey residents with meaningful jobs in building up the permanent infrastructure of the post.

Many of the buildings built during that period still stand today on the fort's main post, including noncommissioned officer and field and company grade officer quarters; the west wing of the Patterson Army Health Clinic and an addition to its north end; the fire station and guard house; Squier Hall, which became an important addition to the Army's Signal Center and School; and Russel Hall, which is now the Fort Monmouth Garrison Headquarters building.

It's not everyday that neighbors willingly share their land for a good cause but that's exactly what neighboring communities did in more



Works Progress Administration construction at Fort Monmouth in 1938. Squier Hall, in the background, was also part of this New Deal effort.

than a dozen instances when Fort Monmouth gained wartime missions at the beginning of World War II.

When the Army decided to lease sites in Monmouth and Ocean Counties, an obvious choice was the National Guard Encampment at Sea Girt. That site had everything the Army needed for the early training of new enlistees before their assignments to Fort Monmouth to continue their training.

Not so obvious but brilliant choices were Asbury Park's famed Convention Hall and its YMCA Gymnasium, which were used as training facilities for Signal officers who were housed in local hotels and apartments and who dined in mess facilities such as the former Marine Grill at Ocean Avenue and Deal Lake.

Two even more unlikely Army facilities during World War II were the Grossman Hotel in Bradley Beach, which was used as office space, and the Sea Girt Inn, which was used for research and development activities.

A great World War II-era story that exemplifies Jersey Shore residents' stalwart support for Fort Monmouth Soldiers is the story of the Breslin family of Belmar who made a difference in the lives of many Soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen. Pat and Sandy Breslin devoted their Belmar boating and fishing business to support the morale, welfare and recreation of our troops, including many Fort Monmouth Soldiers, for 16 years beginning in 1941.

Their story began the day after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, when they offered the use of their 150 boats, all of their fishing equipment, their dock and their food for free to anyone in uniform. The couple even paid the bills so servicemen and women could make long distance calls to their families.

The Breslins never asked for government citations or praise. They often said their real reward was in the thousands of letters they received from service members from virtually every battlefield and battle station in the world.

CADET CANDIDATES EMBRACE COMMUNITY SERVICE



Top: Cadet Candidates from the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School here joined thousands of veterans Nov. 11, 2010 in the 91st Annual New York City Veterans Day Parade. Photo by Sgt. David Alvarado.

Left: Cadet Candidates volunteer their time to work on restoring the exterior paint and landscaping of a Neptune home as part of a Habitat for Humanity project.

In 1949 the couple erected a memorial to honor all those in uniform who visited them and eventually gave their lives defending freedom. Eight years later when the Breslins lost their lease, the search was on to find a new home for the memorial which eventually found its way to Fort Monmouth.

In 2010 the Breslin memorial was relocated from Fort Monmouth back to Belmar, where the Breslin boating building once stood. A simple tale lives on of a couple who loved their country — and since they couldn't go to war themselves, did everything they could for those who served.

Even after Fort Monmouth was forced to secure its gates and only allow DoD-affiliated individuals on post after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, its close ties to the community were not severed. If anything, they were strengthened.

The Fort Monmouth Public Affairs Office continued to fill many requests for Soldiers to visit local schools, including a March 2002 invitation to participate in the "Read Across America" program. The Read Across America program is an annual event designed to motivate children to celebrate reading in connection with the birthday of Dr.

Seuss. The Soldiers not only read stories to the students but also answered their questions about life in the military.

The invitations continued and later that year the town of Oceanport held a family style barbeque for the Army National Guard Soldiers of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 104th Infantry Regiment, who were charged with guarding Fort Monmouth. The entire town pulled together to make the day special for the Soldiers.

The Fire Department donated the tables; the Recreation Department donated the games; the Police Department donated a trailer equipped with a grill and a cooler; and the families donated the food.

A different kind of invitation arrived a short time later for the U.S. Army Garrison, Headquarters Command.

The Little Silver Cub Scouts Pack #3 invited the Headquarters Command Soldiers to their November meeting coinciding with Veterans Day. The Soldiers talked to the Scouts about a variety of things including how to apply camouflage paint and the meaning of the word "Hooah!" They also let them tour a military vehicle.

Over the years we've been able to invite our neighbors inside our gates on special occasions for community celebrations such as last summer's "The Last Hoo-ah." The event featured musical entertainment, a parade, sporting events, skydivers, rides and military demonstrations. Although it was a little bittersweet because it was the final fest to be held at Fort Monmouth it was a delightful way to say thank you to our neighbors for all their extraordinary support.

In 1917 this installation's first Soldiers laid the early infrastructure for what would become the birthplace of many technological innovations. The Soldiers who made Fort Monmouth their home in those early years were accepted into the communities of the neighboring towns. And, over the years and decades the reciprocal camaraderie between Fort Monmouth and its Soldiers and civilians and the community has reinforced those strong ties.*



Capt. Ron Iammartino, Fort Monmouth Garrison Headquarters Company commander, answers questions about serving in Iraq at Atchison Elementary School.

FORT MONMOUTH PROFILES

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fire and Emergency Services counted on to assist neighbors



Photo courtesy of Fort Monmouth Fire and Emergency Services

With mutual aid agreements with more than two dozen surrounding communities, Fort Monmouth Fire and Emergency Services have assisted our neighbors during countless civil emergencies, including:

At 3:09 a.m. on July 9, 2004, Fort Monmouth Fire and Emergency Services were dispatched to a multiple alarm fire in Eatontown.

The Sands Motel on Route 35 caught fire and the Eatontown Fire Department called for help to as far north as Red Bank and as far south as Neptune throughout the night.

At first, the defensive battle was started with master streams from deck guns and aerial ladders. Then, as the blaze darkened down, crews were able to get in and extinguish the fire and attempt to overhaul different areas of the building.

A little before noon on March 4, 2005, an explosion caused by a natural gas line brought down the roof at the Petco Store on Route 35 in Eatontown.

Construction workers installing electrical lines were digging trenches in the parking lot when they accidentally severed a buried natural gas line. Fort Monmouth Fire and Emergency Services rescued victims trapped in the rubble and secured the area.

Along with other rescue agencies they shored up the building structure, removed surviving animals and built supports to prevent further collapse.

At 3:45 p.m. on Feb. 27, 2006, Fort Monmouth Fire and Emergency Services were called on to help put out a multiple alarm fire in Asbury Park at the old Atlantic Belmont Hotel.

Fire had consumed the vacant hotel's two buildings which were built between 1890 and 1905 and were connected by a small corridor.*

STARS DESCEND ONTO FORT MONMOUTH

Athletes, musicians make Fort Monmouth appearances

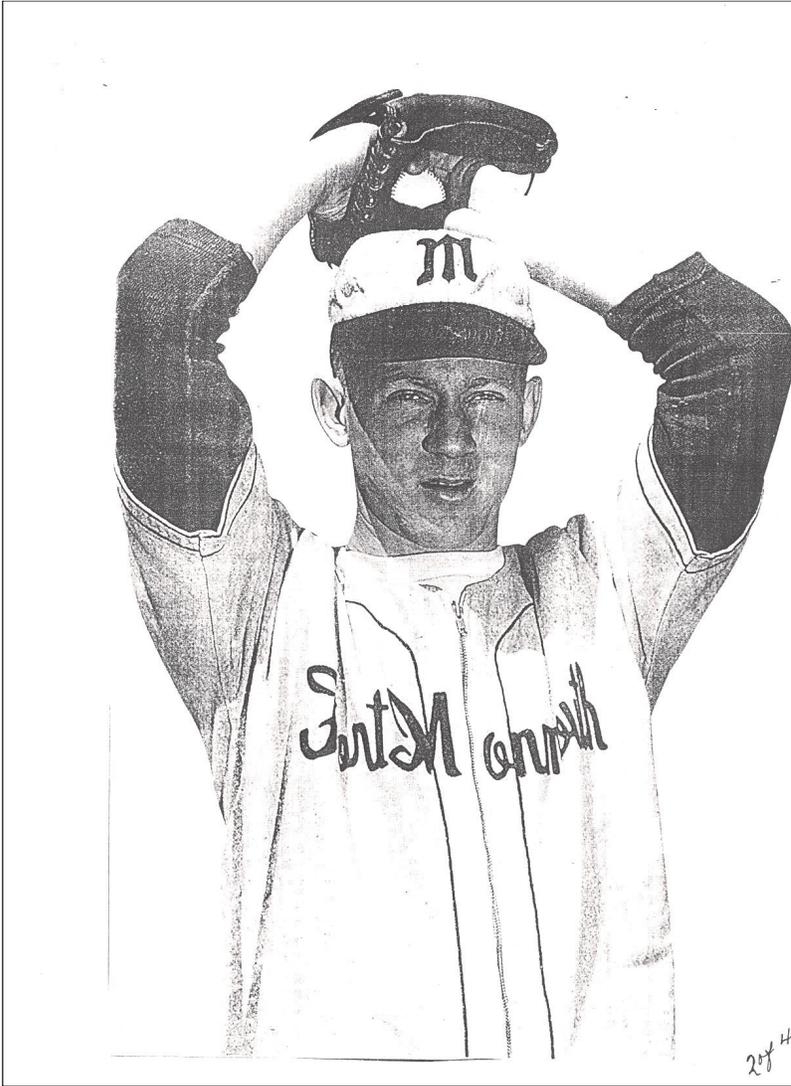


Photo courtesy of Asbury Park Press

New York Yankees and Hall of Fame left-handed pitcher Whitey Ford in a Fort Monmouth uniform during his Army service in the early 1950s.



Jon Bon Jovi (blue denim jacket) with guitarist Richie Sambora (black jacket) from the band Bon Jovi at the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School in 2005. The band rehearsed for its tour that year at the Fort Monmouth Expo Theater.



Bruce Springsteen with the Fort Monmouth Fire Department in 2005.



Brooklyn Dodgers manager Leo Durocher, left, shows Fort Monmouth coach Lt. Charles Bernhard how he gets to the top of the diamond. The Dodgers beat the Signalmen 4-1 at Frawley Field, Camp Wood on July 21, 1944.

A LEGACY OF *GARRISON SUPPORT*

SUPPORTING SOLDIERS, CIVILIANS AND FAMILIES AS THEY DEFEND AND SUPPORT THE NATION



The Fort Monmouth community welcomes home Soldiers of the 754th Explosive Ordnance Detachment returning from their deployment to Iraq Nov. 18, 2004.



IMCOM
SOLDIERS • FAMILIES • CIVILIANS

Installation Management Command Vision:

Army installations are the DoD standard for infrastructure quality and are the provider of consistent, quality services that are a force multiplier in supported organizations' mission accomplishment, and materially enhance Soldier and family well-being and readiness.

**WE ARE
THE ARMY'S HOME**



Intramural sports, including flag football, enabled Fort Monmouth Soldiers and civilian employees to get together outside of their work setting.

Ever since the first Signal Corps Soldiers arrived here more than nine decades ago and helped to establish this property as an Army installation, the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Monmouth mission has been to provide support and services to Soldiers, families and the entire military and civilian community here.

A common way to describe a garrison is to call it a town.

And in many ways Fort Monmouth has always had an appealing “small town” feel about it – whether you were at an event at the Teen Club in the 1960s, or at a religious service at the Chapel in the 1980s, or whether you were simply borrowing a book from the Van Deusen Library.

Fort Monmouth is a place where everybody knows your name ... it’s been a place where countless Soldiers and civilians have felt at home for 94 years.

FORT MONMOUTH PROFILES

CHERYL MILLER

Cheryl Miller worked at the Child Development Center (CDC) as a Training Curriculum Specialist. She provided general oversight of the CDC developmental program and caregiver training. The recently retired Long Branch native worked at Fort Monmouth for 31 years.

The Fort Monmouth CDC includes a variety of programs for children six weeks to six years of age. It serves children of active duty military, DoD civilians and contractors, National Guard and Reservists.

The CDC offers a safe, nurturing environment that promotes the physical, social, emotional and cognitive growth of young children. All CDC programs support a developmental approach to the care and growth of children.

“I’ve really enjoyed my time here and want to thank colleagues and people that helped me along the way,” said Miller. She said she has too many memories to pick one moment but, largely, “appreciates all the help” she’s been given.



Cheryl Miller and two children from the Fort Monmouth Child Development Center.

DOTS and DASHES

A medium to spread cheer and carry useful and interesting items of information.

Published Weekly by the Y. M. C. A. at Camp Alfred Vail, Little Silver, New Jersey

Vol. 1. Wednesday, November 21, 1917 No. 3

Y. M. C. A. FUND GOING "OVER THE TOP"

As we go to press reports coming in seem to indicate that the campaign conducted during the past week for \$30,000.00 for the continuing and existing Y. M. C. A. War Work will be a real success and perhaps go over the mark. Money being found the totals recorded at \$30,000.00 with prospects of big jumps during the day. The amount seems to some persons to be quite large but with each coming for service from almost every country in the war it is possible that \$10,000.00 may be over too little.

Four special representatives sent to France by the Y. M. C. A. War Fund Committee called this report to headquarters: "Not until we have gone personally over the field had we any conception of the tremendous responsibility which General Pershing has committed to the Y. M. C. A. In this respect the highest American ideals may be a deciding factor in winning the war and keeping steadfast to the spirit and aims of its founders the men who will in the future direct the destiny of the nation.



Getting in After Bed Check

FOUR CLUBS FOR UNIFORMED MEN NOW OPEN IN NEW YORK. Already four of the clubs which are to be opened for soldiers and sailors in New York which were mentioned in our last issue, are in operation. They are the National Service Club No. 1, 425 Seventh Avenue, opposite Pennsylvania Station, National Service Home Club No. 2, 428 Seventh Avenue, near 30th Street, National Service Home Club No. 3, 7 East 11th Street, near Grand Central Station, Soldiers' and Sailors' Home Club, 22d Street and West End Avenue. Any man in uniform is welcome.

COMEDY CLUB TO RETURN. The New York Amateur Comedy Club was so pleased with the reception given them last Thursday night at the Y. M. C. A. building that they have promised to return some time in the near future. It was felt that their set of pantomime given last Thursday was not really understood by some of the fellows—being a form of acting seen very little on the average stage, although a great many of the audience proved their understanding by their interest and applause. A note of appreciation is due Mr. Bee den through whom the Club was brought to camp.

Now We're In—Let's Go To It. Reports coming from France during the past week or more have proved conclusively that America is really in the war—physically as well as financially and morally. We don't like to think of any of us before having to leave this good old world and join with a million other boys to fight for God Almighty, that if you're never made a success of your life before, that you may make it now.

CAMP POST CARDS SOON. Arrangement has been made for the taking of a number of the good photos and printing of post cards of the camp. The cards will no doubt fill a long list want and it is expected that a great many will get into the mails shortly after they are put out. They will be sold at the Post Exchange and Y. M. C. A.

THE ENTERTAINMENT OF THE OFFICERS mess hall has been completed and will be in use in a few days. For some time past there has been a need for larger quarters, the present room often being crowded to capacity.

Y. M. C. A. HAS NEW BULLETIN BOARDS During the past week several new bulletin boards were completed and delivered at the Y. M. C. A. building ready to be set up there and at one or two other places in camp. The heading on the boards reads "Current Events" and the body of the boards will contain a list of the events and entertainments scheduled at the Y. M. C. A. building. One board will be set up in the Post Exchange where it is expected to attract a great amount of attention.

- SEND DOTS AND DASHES.
- TO THE FOLKS BACK HOME.
- THE FOLKS BACK HOME.

Y. M. C. A. IS BIGGEST MOVIE EXHIBITOR

Since the beginning of the war the Y. M. C. A. has stepped into the forefront of the motion picture world in that it has become the world's largest motion picture exhibitor.

At more than 200 different places in the country in excess of 100 projecting machines are in operation from one to six at a time in a single building of the four to five million feet of film now shown weekly. When the full quota of holidays and extra outlets for are in operation, 7,000,000 feet of film will be required weekly. That is, each week the Y. M. C. A. will show in its hundreds of stations the equivalent of a film 1420 miles long, a picture capable, in other words, of measuring the distance from Omaha to New York. The Y. M. C. A. is now showing more film at more places every night than any other agency in the world. At one station alone for instance, more than 100 programs have already been given, more than a million feet of film used.

A brand-new attraction in the military and naval movies is soon to make its appearance in the form of a soldier and sailor's own weekly motion picture. This film will be similar to the commercial films of the same type, but will feature matters of particular interest to enlisted men. Scenes in other camps, outstanding military and civil events, interesting happenings in affairs of state, both in and out of Washington, as many European war pictures as can be obtained and incidents "back home" are some of the subjects to be included.

GAS AND FLAME BATTALION BEING ORGANIZED FOR ARMY. English military officers who are expert in the offensive and defensive use of gas and flame methods of warfare, originally introduced by the enemy and now effectively employed by the allies, are instructing the officers and men of the Tenth Engineers, Gas and Flame, at Camp American University and important secret tests are being made to practice work there.

American soldiers, largely recruited from the ranks of such civil professions as chemical and mechanical engineering, explosive and gas manufacture, plumbing, and carpentry, are being trained to meet any fire and flame with flame and tear gas.

Congratulations are in order to Lieutenant Colonel Kump on his advancement and transfer from the National Army to the Signal Corps of the U. S. A.



Top: Fort Monmouth's Child and Youth Services provided children on post with a variety of activities.



Left: Teenagers dance at Fort Monmouth's Teen Club in 1960.

The first post newspaper was called *Dots and Dashes* and was first printed in November 1917. As its flag proclaims, it was "a medium to spread cheer and carry useful and interesting items of information." It was published by the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) and it's interesting to note that although the United States was at war, there is very little war news. It's not until the third column from the left, underneath an item about a New York Amateur Comedy Club, that the war is even mentioned. Published at what was then Camp Alfred Vail, *Dots and Dashes* became *The Signaler* which would later become *The Monmouth Message*. Camp Vail, of course, later became Fort Monmouth.

A walk down the *Avenue of Memories* By Joan Elmore Nutting, Knowledge Management Specialist

“ I grew up on Fort Monmouth because my dad was Chief of Communications for 35 years. I attended parades and played on the fields with Army field phones that you cranked and cranked until they worked.

My Dad loved the fort and he would bring his crab nets and fishing poles and go to the bridge on his lunch hour. During snow storms the phones would go out on the fort and my dad would wake me up at three in the morning to go with him to Vail Hall. The reasoning behind that was he was color blind and I had to hold the flashlight and tell him what color the wires were so he could restore service.

When I was 16 I spent the summer working at what was called the Hexagon (now the Myer Center) in the computer room with giant servers and tapes that weighed about seven pounds apiece. The best part of that job was the college boys that I met. However, my Dad, with a watchful eye, would pick me up every day and take me to the Officers Club for lunch.

In February of 2009 I was hired as a Knowledge Management Specialist and was very impressed with the conference rooms. I had a new respect for the military and sometimes would linger after work as they lowered the flag and played taps.”



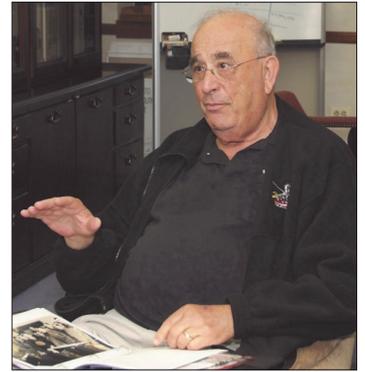
Joan Elmore Nutting

A walk down the *Avenue of Memories*

The Public Affairs Office would like to thank everyone who responded to our request for special memories of Fort Monmouth. We had an overwhelming response and enjoyed reading them all, so much so we decided to devote this page to those memories.

By Col. (Ret.) Ben Abramowitz, son of Lt. Col. Reuben Abramowitz, for whom the post fitness center is named.

“ I lived at Fort Monmouth from 1934-1944. As a young boy I remember the Friday Parade where every unit participated. The last unit to pass the review stand was the pigeon unit. The parade finale was when the pigeons were released, circled the parade ground twice and ‘homed’ back to the coop. At that point everyone knew they could go home.”



Col. (Ret.) Ben Abramowitz



Sharon Dugan

By Sharon Dugan, Supply Systems Analyst

“ I have literally grown up at Fort Monmouth. My dad worked here for 32 years and some of my youngest memories are of going to work with him. In 1980, at 20 years-old, I joined the Army ranks. I met my husband at my first job and our youngest child worked two summers for what was then Morale, Welfare and Recreation so full circle I have come.

When I first started working, technology was not what it is today. I had a typewriter and 4-set carbons – pink, yellow, green and white! TWX messages had to be done without error. There was no correction ribbon for them. Personal actions were typed on blue SF52 forms and routed manually through the system. Time cards were actually cards. “While technology has changed dramatically over the years, one thing has remained constant – the family feel of Fort Monmouth and the spirit of being part of something much larger than myself.”

By William F. Hester, retired mechanical engineer/consultant

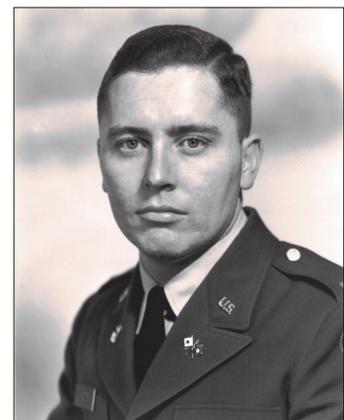
“ I am a retired mechanical engineer/consultant and I served in the Fort Monmouth Signal Research and Development Labs as a 2nd Lieutenant (Reserve Officer Training Corps active duty for training) from April through August of 1961.

At that time, the lab had a dedicated team of radio engineers and physicists facing a challenging problem in satellite radio communications encountering solar interference. Missing was a heat transfer/radiation expert which became my assignment.

Working in the laboratory with radio engineers, physicists, and subcontractors, we developed the innovation that changed communications history.

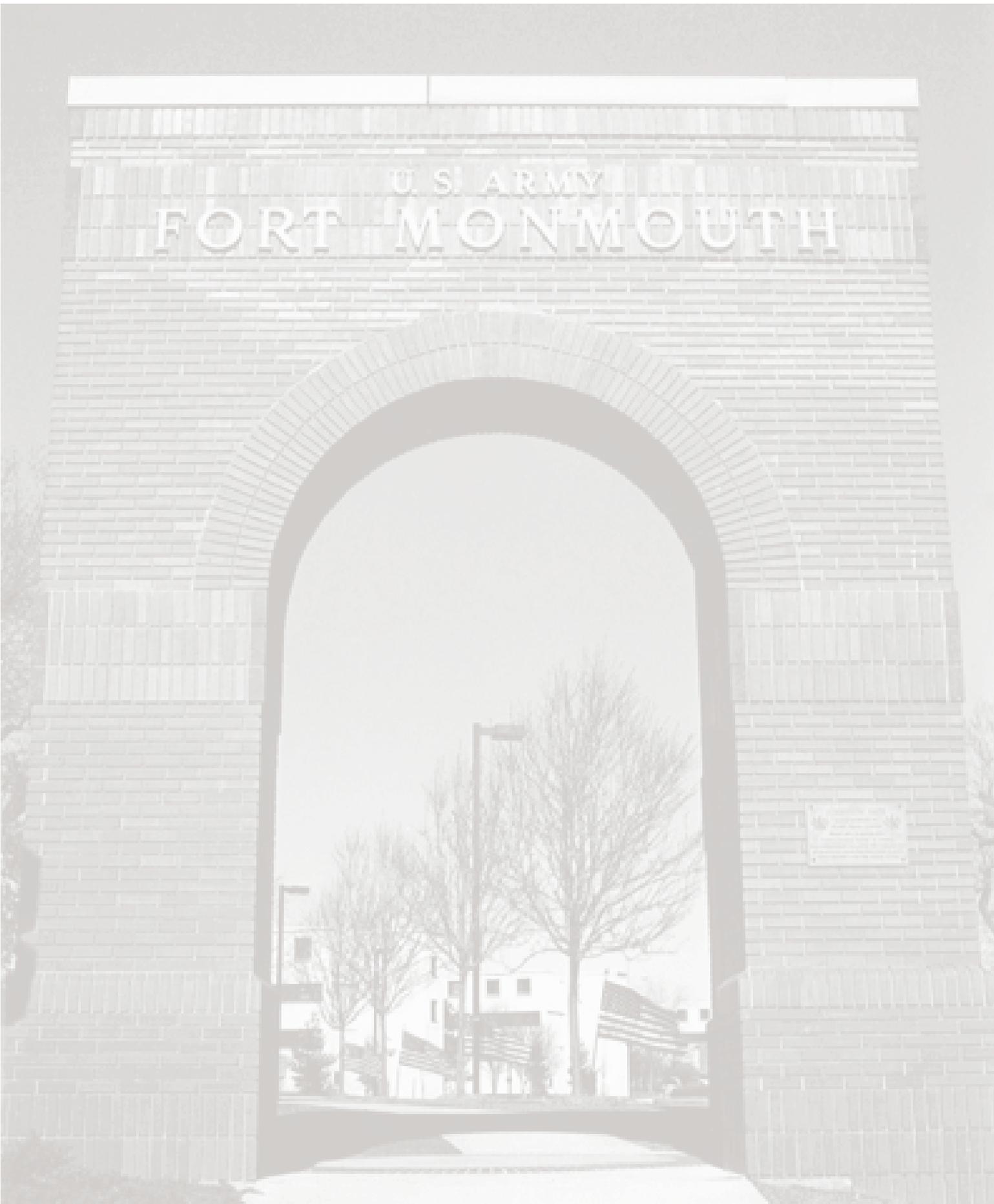
In those days, budgets were limited, but the team rose to the challenge with used equipment and an exhaustive effort. Using Signal Corps small microwave parabolic dishes to measure thermal patterns when facing the radio dishes towards solar radiation, we developed a coating that absorbs radio waves and disperses solar heat waves for the arrays that changed the properties of a parabolic dish.

This innovation opened the vista of satellite communications. The results of this monumental contribution have been commercialized over the years and are seen today via rooftop TV satellite dishes that instantaneously bring the world into our homes.”



William F. Hester

U.S. ARMY
FORT MONMOUTH



FORT MONMOUTH

1917-2011

94 YEARS OF **INNOVATION**
AND **SERVICE**



This special issue of *The Monmouth Message* was published to commemorate the selfless service of Fort Monmouth's Soldiers, civilians and family members.